

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162201

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, NATO, TU

SUBJECT: NAMSA SALES TO TURKEY

1. ARTICLE RE ADMINISTRATION ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY IN JULY
12 WASHINGTON POST INCLUDES FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS RE DOLS 30
MILLION IN US EQUIPMENT SOLD TURKEY BY "A NATO MAINTENANCE
AND SUPPLY ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG" IN FY 76:
BEGIN QUOTE: CONGRESS IN CONTROVERSIAL ACTIONS HAS SET ARMS
POLICY BY LEGISLATING A BAN ON US SALES TO CHILE AND URU-
GUAY BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND BY ENACTING
RESTRICTIONS ON SALES TO TURKEY BECAUSE OF MISUSE OF US
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ARMS IN THE CYPRUS INVASION.

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION PERSUADED CONGRESS TO PERMIT TUR-
KEY TO PURCHASE UP TO DOLS 125 MILLION OF US ARMS IN FIS-
CAL YEAR 1976 AND 1977 IN ORDER TO FORESTALL A FURTHER
DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH THAT NATO ALLY.

ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY NOTIFIED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT TURKEY MAY HAVE EXCEEDED THE 1976 CEILING BY PURCHASING DOLS 30 MILLION IN US MISSILES AIRCRAFT ENGINES AND HELICOPTERS FROM A NATO MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG. A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY A STUDY IS UNDER WAY

OF THE TURKISH PURCHASES FROM THE NATO GROUP. THE SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT SAY, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE LIMIT IMPOSED BY CONGRESS. END QUOTE.

2. MATTER HAD RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THAT SALES OF US FMS ORIGIN MILITARY ITEMS WERE MADE BY NORTH ATLANTIC MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY (NAMSA) TO TURKEY IN FY 1976 IN QUANTITIES BEYOND THE DOLS 125 MILLION WHICH, UNDER APPLICABLE US LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS, COULD BE SOLD DIRECTLY BY USG TO TURKEY. THE FACT THAT THIS PROCUREMENT FOR TURKEY OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN US MILITARY SALES LEGISLATION IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON USG SALES TO GOT IS A MATTER OF CONCERN.

3. ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED REGARDING USG MONITORING OF FUTURE NAMSA SALES TO TURKEY OF FMS ORIGIN ITEMS WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTTEL. VANCE

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